GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3991
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005
SHIPPING SERVICE TO PAKISTAN
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to negotiate with the Government of Pakistan for increasing shipping services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. However, an Indian delegation visited Karachi, Pakistan on 08-10 December, 2005 and held technical talks on shipping to review the 1975 India-Pakistan shipping protocol which at present restricts lifting of cargo between the two countries by third country vessels as well as lifting of third country cargo by Indian and Pakistani flag vessels from each others' ports. The existing protocol has been reviewed by both sides and initialed at official level. After approval of both governments revised protocol will come into force. Since restrictive clauses have been removed, it is expected that shipping services between the two countries will increase.